

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings

American Medical Association, St. Louis, Missouri, May 15 to 19, 1939. Olin West, M. D., Secretary, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

California Medical Association, Hotel Del Monte, May 1 to 4, 1939. George H. Kress, M. D., Secretary, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco.

One-hundredth Semi-Annual Meeting of the Southern California Medical Association, Los Angeles, March 15 and 16, 1939. John B. Doyle, M. D., Secretary, 1930 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles.

Medical Broadcasts*

Los Angeles County Medical Association

The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of February is as follows:

Thursday, February 2—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, February 4—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, February 9—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, February 11—KFI, 8:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, February 16—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, February 18—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, February 23—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, February 25—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Memorial to Dr. Joseph Pomeroy Widney, Founder of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.—On Wednesday morning, December 7, 1938, memorial services for Dr. Joseph Pomeroy Widney were held on the campus of the University of Southern California.

Services were under the auspices of the Conservation Committee of the Eschscholtzia Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

A memorial tablet, inscribed

Joseph P. Widney, M. D.

Patriot, Scholar, Pioneer

President, University of Southern California, 1891-1896

was unveiled by Mrs. Samuel A. Widney.

Dr. Rufus B. von Klein Smid, President of the University of Southern California, accepted the memorial and paid tribute to Doctor Widney.

Members of the Los Angeles County Medical Association attended the ceremony in honor of Doctor Widney, motivating leader of the founders of the Association. Biographical and other sketches concerning the late Doctor Widney have appeared in previous issues of *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*. (See issues of April, May, June, 1936; and August, 1938, on pages 106 and 161.)

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour, and subject) to *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

Ancient Judean Medicine Similar to Modern Type.—

The medical practitioners of ancient Judea had theories and techniques on infections and their results that appear surprisingly modern, it is revealed in a rare volume that has come to the Crummer Room library of the University of California Medical Center here. The volume, written early in the eighteenth century by Dr. John Jacob Schmidt, a German physician, is titled "Medicine and the Bible," and is a collection of all references to disease and remedies that occur in the Old Testament.

Resident Physician Wanted.—There will be an opening for resident physician at the Alameda Sanatorium, Alameda, California, beginning July 1, 1939.

Seventy-five bed, private hospital with a daily average of forty patients, including all services except contagion and mental. Salary of \$125 and full maintenance. Duties to include histories and physicals on patients and their routine follow-up care under supervision of the attending physician, and also the giving of occasional anesthetics. Some opportunity for assisting in surgery. License in California obligatory. Anyone who would be interested in the position will please communicate with Ruth A. Wescott, Superintendent, for further information.

Rôle of the Neutron.—The neutron, discovered by Chadwick, and of special interest because it carries no electric charge, can now be obtained in a beam available for direct use as a possible future form of radiotherapy. An apparatus, called the cyclotron, for the production of this beam is described in the *Journal of the Canadian Medical Association* for March, 1938, by Prof. J. Stuart Foster of McGill University. The cyclotron, which is comparatively simple in design, depends in principle on the fact that given certain conditions the ions circulating in a magnetic field can be rapidly accelerated so that they finally strike a target with an energy of five and a half million volts. The fact that it is simple in design does not mean that the cyclotron is easy to construct or operate. The bottom section of the electromagnet weighs eighty-five tons, and the intensity of the primary cyclotron beam is enormously greater than that from any other known source of radio activity. The beam has two possible therapeutic applications—for the direct radiation of patients and for the production of new nuclear forms such as radio-sodium. This has a half-value period of fourteen and eight-tenths hours, and finally loses all radio-activity and passes to a magnesium nucleus of mass 24. The magnesium nucleus is formed in an "excited" state, but becomes normal immediately with gamma-ray emission, ordinary sodium being thus turned into ordinary magnesium as a result of activation by the cyclotron beam. Trial of the neutron beam for the actual treatment of malignant disease may be expected. E. and J. Lawrence at Berkeley are already carrying out biological experiments with tumor implants in mice and other subjects. The use of radio-sodium to make "bombs" is suggested by Prof. Stuart Foster, and since radon has been used in this form for many years in certain American clinics, the idea does not seem to be beyond practical possibilities. The biological effects of neutron beam are already being studied in this country in the hope of extending the scope of radiation therapy.—Extract from *The Lancet*, London, May, 1938.

East Bay Hospital Conference.—Alfred E. Maffly, Superintendent of the Berkeley General Hospital, recently was elected president of the East Bay Hospital Conference, succeeding Ellard L. Slack of Samuel Merritt Hospital. The new vice-president is Miss Florence Klaeser of East Oakland Hospital, and the new secretary-treasurer is John Rafter of Richmond Cottage Hospital.

The East Bay Hospital Conference is composed of all the hospitals in the East Bay area which maintain the standards approved by the American College of Surgeons. Its membership includes the following hospitals: Alameda County, Alameda Sanatorium, Alta Bates, Berkeley General, Children's, Cowell Memorial, East Oakland, Fairmount, Samuel Merritt, Peralta, Providence, and Richmond Cottage hospitals.

American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.—The general oral, clinical and pathological examinations for all candidates, Part II Examinations (Groups A and B), will be conducted by the entire Board, meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, on May 15 and 16, 1939, immediately prior to the annual meeting of the American Medical Association. Notice of time and place of these examinations will be forwarded to all candidates well in advance of the examination dates.

Candidates for reexamination in Part II must request such reexamination by writing the secretary's office before April 1. Candidates who are required to take reexaminations must do so before the expiration of three years from the date of their first examination.

Application for admission to Group A, May 1939, examinations must be on file in the secretary's office by March 15.

Application blanks and booklets of information may be obtained from Dr. Paul Titus, Secretary, 1015 Highland Building, Pittsburgh, (6) Pennsylvania.

Paris Physicians Protest Against Social Insurance.—The abuse of free medical care by the public hospitals and dispensaries and the illegal extension of the original function of the social insurance authorities are arousing the French medical profession to make a vigorous campaign to put an end to a movement which renders it difficult for physicians to earn a living, the regular Paris correspondent of *The Journal of the American Medical Association* reports in the December 10 issue. In the notice sent out by the association of physicians in the department of the Seine, in which Paris is situated, for a meeting to be held on November 4, 1938, the following plea was made for a full attendance:

It is becoming more and more difficult, in fact almost impossible, to practice in Paris and the adjacent areas.

The public hospitals and dispensaries, which are not subjected to the excessively high taxes which physicians must pay, are doing all they can to give free medical attention without any inquiry as to the ability of the sick to pay. Such institutions should treat only indigents.

The social insurance organization was created to insure the worker earning up to a certain sum annually, now 30,000 francs, so that he might be able to pay for medical care. Instead of limiting their activities to this commendable objective, the social insurance authorities have begun to make serious inroads on the work of private practitioners by attempting to organize facilities for treating the insured worker. Every effort is being made to turn the insured from specialists and general practitioners by urging them to enter public hospitals or receive treatment at the many public dispensaries.

The situation has become so acute that the time has arrived for a more energetic campaign against these abuses, which make it impossible for a physician, after many years of preparation, to compete with the tendency toward state medicine.—*American Medical Association News*.

Army Examination Set for Doctors.—Young doctors who wish to qualify for appointments as first lieutenants in the Medical Corps of the regular army will have an opportunity on March 20 to 24, the War Department announced today.

Examinations will be held to fill vacancies occurring during the next calendar year.

Male graduates of acceptable medical schools who have completed one year's internship in an approved hospital, or who will have completed internship by June 30, are eligible. Doctors must not be over thirty-two years of age.

The examination will consist of physical and written subjects.—*San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, December 31, 1938.

State University Plans Classes for Teachers of Blind. Coöperating with the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, the University of California will include special courses for the preparation of supervisors and teachers of sight-saving classes in its 1939 Summer Session curricula at Los Angeles, according to an announcement made recently by Dr. J. Harold Williams, Dean of the Session.

To give instruction in the administration, supervision and teaching of sight-saving classes, Miss Frances Blend, Principal of the School for the Blind and Sight-Saving in Los Angeles, will join the Summer Session faculty. In addition, special lectures will be given by specialists on ocular problems and students will be given an opportunity for observation in a demonstration class and clinical work in an eye hospital.

Summer Session work begins on the Los Angeles campus of the State University on June 26, with preliminary class bulletins currently available to the public.

Worry and Its Cure.—Clinical proof of the saying that worry causes more deaths and general misery than war, but does so needlessly in many cases, was offered to the staff of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, by Dr. William J. Kerr, head of the department of medicine of the University of California Medical Center, in a recent invitational address.

Blasted romances, business deals that go wrong and the feeling of lack of personal security, have been determined as the chief causes of the destructive anxiety state in humans, as a result of studies extending over many years, Doctor Kerr said. Withal, the cure appears to be relatively simple, once the patient is aware of the real cause of his condition and takes measures to check that cause.

Characteristic symptoms are overbreathing, which might also be termed too much sighing, which causes the loss of so much carbonic acid gas from the blood that alkalosis sets in, muscular spasms, cramps, palpitation of the heart, trembling, weakness, sweating, numbness of extremities, occasional dizziness and sensations of bands around the head and the neck. These symptoms may be made worse by taking the alkaline substances so often recommended. Relief can be obtained almost invariably if the patient can be shown that anxiety is bringing on the remainder of the symptoms. While it may not be possible to remove the cause of the anxiety, a correction of the overbreathing can bring relief. Avoidance of the alkaline substances and the substitution of acid substances, such as meats, butter and cream, therefore make it more difficult for the symptoms to arise. Sedatives sometimes have a temporary value, but should be taken only as a last resort.

The well-known "soldier's heart," experienced widely during the World War, was merely functional change brought about by the anxiety state, but appearing in more pronounced fashion than in civil life, Doctor Kerr explained.

Doctor Kerr was associated in the study with Dr. Paul Gliebe, psychiatrist, and Dr. Mayo Soley, of the Medical School faculty, Dr. James Dalton of Santa Barbara, and Dr. Nathan Schock of the department of physiology, Berkeley.

Child Institute Receives Grant for Research.—Grants totaling \$190,000 have been awarded by the General Education Board of New York for support of the research program at the Institute of Child Welfare of the University of California, according to word received by Dr. Robert G. Sproul, President of the University.

A lump-sum grant of \$180,000 has been made for the support of child-guidance studies at the Institute and an additional grant of \$10,000 has been provided for use in the general research activities. The entire program is to be under the direction of Dr. Harold E. Jones, director of the Institute.

The Institute research program is devoted to uncovering the methods of mental and physical growth as well as the development of personality characteristics in children.

Ten Commandments of Careful Driving Announced by California Safety Council.—The California Safety Council, a state-wide citizens' safety educational group, recently announced a campaign for careful driving during the holidays to reduce street casualties.

"Ten Commandments of Careful Driving," issued by the Safety Council, are calculated to eliminate hazardous driving and walking and insure a holiday season of prudent driving, in which all California citizens are invited to participate.

Here are the rules :

1. I shall not drive if I imbibe in holiday or party "cheer."
2. I shall not be rude or boorish to pedestrians attempting to cross the street ahead of me, but give them clearance to cross safely.
3. I shall not weave in and out of traffic.
4. I shall not blind approaching motorists at night with my headlights.
5. I shall not hog the middle of the road.
6. I shall not fail to give proper arm signals when turning or stopping my car.
7. I shall not follow too closely the car or truck ahead.
8. I shall not jump signals.
9. I shall not operate my car at excessive speed.
10. I shall obey all traffic regulations, recognizing that my conformance thereto means better "road manners" and less occasion for hazards to emerge.

California Hospital Historical Brochure: "California Hospital Messenger."—Volume 16 of the "Messenger" is a fifty-year memorial number. On its pages may be found references to the group of physicians who in the last half-century played a prominent part in public health and medical practice activities in the southern section of California. For many years the attending staff of senior physicians of the California Hospital, 1414 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, consisted of doctors of medicine who were practically one and the same as the physicians who composed the faculty of the old College of Medicine of the University of Southern California, located on what was then Buena Vista Street, now North Broadway. On page 5 of "The Messenger" is a reproduction of a photograph of the faculty members, and among the twenty-one physicians are the following former presidents of the California Medical Association (former name, Medical Society of the State of California): Henry S. Orme (1878), Walter Lindley (1889), W. Le Moyne Wills (1895), Henry G. Brainerd (1922), and Granville MacGowan (1924).

Four other physicians who, for many years were intimately identified with the California Hospital, and each of whom was likewise a president of the California Medical Association, are H. Bert. Ellis (1903), W. W. Beckett (1908), George H. Kress (1916), and William T. McArthur (1926).

Financial Grants for Cancer Research.—Financial grants for cancer research in designated hospitals and medical colleges were recently considered by the National Advisory Cancer Council at the National Institute of Health.

Distribution plans for the \$200,000 shipment of radium which recently arrived in Washington were included in the reports. The nine and one-half grams owned by the Institute are now being tested at the Bureau of Standards. Within the next several months most of this radium will be loaned out in small quantities to hospitals, cancer clinics, and medical centers, in accordance with regulations approved by the Council at its October meeting.

A Symposium on the Public Health Significance of the Virus and Rickettsial Diseases.—The faculty of the Harvard School of Public Health offers a short course of lectures, clinics, and demonstrations on the virus and rickettsial diseases, with special emphasis on their public health significance, to be held at the School during the week of June 12 to 17, 1939. Lectures on the etiology, epidemiology, and methods of control of these diseases, given by members of the faculties and by former students of the Harvard School of Public Health and of the Harvard Medical School, will occupy five mornings. Special clinics and demonstrations will be given each afternoon. In some instances these demonstrations will be continued through the week, so that all the members of the symposium can attend. On the last morning, a panel discussion will be held on the three main topics presented in the symposium.

The fee for the course will be \$25, payable at any time up to June 12. Enrollment, however, should be arranged before June 1, as facilities for many of the clinics and demonstrations are limited. The lectures will be published later in a single volume, which will be sent to each person who has registered for the course.

Further information may be had by writing to the Secretary of the School of Public Health, 55 Shattuck Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

Scientific Methods in Disease Control.—Wider application of the methods of science in disease control, greater emphasis on health education, and extension of group activity, both in the practice of medicine and in medical research, were predicted recently by Dr. R. R. Spencer, Executive Assistant of the National Cancer Institute, United States Public Health Service, in an address in Philadelphia before the third annual convention of the Association of Medical Students.

"We are going to see the methods of science applied to the problems of society and the physician will have an important part in solving these problems," Doctor Spencer declared. "Medicine is a social science. It deals with people and their behavior, as well as the behavior of our heart, stomach, thyroid, liver, or kidneys. If science can deal effectively with the misbehavior of our organs, it should be able to deal effectively also with the misbehavior of the organism as a whole."

In commenting upon his predicted expansion of health education, Doctor Spencer said that "preventive medicine will some day be the heart and soul of medical practice, and the heart and soul of preventive medicine is health education." He pointed out that, even today, every medical society has a speakers' bureau and a public relations committee, and commended health education efforts in behalf of preventive medicine because "preventive medicine is far more satisfactory to the patient, to the physician, and to the community than curative medicine. It is less spectacular, but in the long run it is cheaper."

In advocating a closer connection between health education and general education at all levels, including schools, colleges, universities, and classes of mass adult education,

the Public Health Service official declared: "You cannot separate health education from the general business of living. Hence, the duties of the public health physician and the school teachers are merging.

"Extension of medical care does not necessarily mean political domination. It should simply mean good organization, and I do not believe good organization means regimentation and the killing of initiative. It should, on the contrary, release initiative, for good organization is synonymous with teamwork and *esprit de corps*, and a trust in what John Dewey has called 'coöperative intelligence.' An enlightened public is demanding a high type of medical care which can be provided only by group practice and the establishment of health centers.

"The day of individualistic competitive medical methods is rapidly passing. Many diseases formerly taken care of by the individual physician have now become major public health problems. Mental diseases, tuberculosis, syphilis, pneumonia, and cancer are included in this group."

A "New" Disease.—As yet unnamed, a new disease of mankind, caused by a recently recognized virus, may soon be added to the long list already known. The infection is found in nature in the Rocky Mountain wood tick, a species native to Montana.

The identity of this infectious agent with the little-known "Q" fever of Australia is suggested by Dr. R. E. Dyer, Senior Surgeon, United States Public Health Service, in one of the series of studies on the new virus appearing in Public Health Reports (December 30, 1938).

In 1926, a filter-passing agent was recovered from a species of tick near Missoula, Montana, by Noguchi; again, nine years later, a virus, possibly the same as Noguchi's, was again recovered from approximately the same locality. This time, Doctors Gordon E. Davis and Herald R. Cox, Bacteriologists of the Public Health Service, began experiments with the unknown strain which eventually resulted in the present reports.

Their research indicates that the new infection, which they succeeded in transferring to guinea pigs, is characterized particularly by high and continuous fever and an enlarged, smooth spleen. Later work by Dr. R. R. Parker at the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, maintained by the Federal Government, proved that the agent of infection could be passed to guinea pigs by both progeny of infected females and immature and adult ticks which had fed, as larvae, on infected blood.

Doctor Cox (in Paper III of the series), working further with the recovered strain, found numerous minute protean organisms which resembled "rickettsia," or bacterium-like forms.

The fourth paper of the series, by Doctor Dyer, reports the actual case of "X," a member of the staff of the National Institute of Health, who contracted the new disease in May of last year, while observing the research on the virus in the laboratory at Hamilton, Montana. The period of incubation is described as about ten days, with gradual onset. Mild fever sets in the third day, lasting about a week, accompanied by chills and recurrent sweating. Finger joints were recorded as "tender" for about three days. The patient returned to normal in approximately one month.

Virus recovered from "X," injected into guinea pigs, gave them a similar infection, and his serum produced definite protection against further inoculation. Other tests indicated the possibility of the new infection being similar in many respects to the newly described Australian disease.

"The possibility that this infecting agent and the one which causes 'Q' fever are closely related, as the 'one-way' cross-immunity tests indicate," Doctor Dyer suggested, "should not be overlooked. That the two diseases may not be identical is indicated by our failure to infect monkeys,

while the Australian workers report them as susceptible to 'Q' fever. Epidemiologically, this latter disease has been found in Australia, particularly among workers in abattoirs and among dairy farmers. Such an epidemiological picture is not at variance with the picture of a 'tick-borne' infection, since it suggests a reservoir in animals and the existence of the infection in their arthropod parasites."

Annual Congress on Industrial Health.—The First Annual Congress on Industrial Health was held on January 9 and 10, at the Palmer House, Chicago, Dr. C. M. Peterson of Chicago acting as secretary.

The program follows:

Monday Morning, 9:45

Stanley J. Seeger, M. D., Presiding

Report of the Council on Industrial Health—Stanley J. Seeger, M. D., Chairman, Milwaukee.

Symposium on Industrial Relationships

The Physician in Industry and Organized Medicine—Irvine Abell, M. D., President, American Medical Association, Louisville, Kentucky.

The Physician in Industry and the Employer—C. D. Selby, M. D., President, American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons, Detroit.

The Physician in Industry and the Employee—Loyal A. Shoudy, M. D., Chief of Medical Service, Bethlehem Steel Company, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Industrial Health and the Private Practitioner—R. L. Sensenich, M. D., Trustee, American Medical Association, South Bend, Indiana.

Monday Afternoon, 2:15

Harvey Bartle, M. D., Presiding

The Program of the American College of Surgeons in Industry—Frederic A. Besley, M. D., Chairman, Committee on Industrial Medicine and Traumatic Surgery, American College of Surgeons, Waukegan, Illinois.

Uniformity in Workmen's Compensation Procedure—Voyta Wrabetz, Chairman, Industrial Commission, State of Wisconsin, Madison.

Bases for Coöperation Between Insurance and the Physician in Industry—Ambrose Kelly, American Mutual Alliance, Chicago.

A Program for Committees on Industrial Health in the State Medical Societies—A. D. Lazenby, M. D., Chairman, Committee on Industrial Health, Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, Baltimore.

Tuesday Morning, 9:30

H. H. Kessler, M. D., Presiding

The Health and Safety Program of the United States Bureau of Mines—Daniel Harrington, Chief, Health and Safety Branch, United States Bureau of Mines, Washington, D. C.

The Public Health Interest in Industry—Federal, State, and Local—Warren F. Draper, M. D., Executive Officer, United States Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.

Industrial Health Activities by Labor Departments in the Government—Alice Hamilton, M. D., Consultant on Industrial Hygiene, Division of Labor Standards, United States Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Independent Programs of Investigation and Prevention—W. J. McConnell, M. D., Secretary, Industrial Hygiene Section, American Public Health Association, New York.

Tuesday Afternoon, 2:00

Leroy U. Gardner, M. D., Presiding

Industrial Surgery from the General Surgeon's Point of View—Harry Mock, M. D., Chicago.

Symposium on Medical Service to Small Industrial Plants

Statement of the Problem—Victor G. Heiser, M. D., and Donald M. Shafer, M. D., Consultants, Committee on Healthful Working Conditions, National Association of Manufacturers, New York.

The Responsibility of the Private Practitioner in Occupational Disease Control—Carey P. McCord, M. D., Director, Bureau of Industrial Hygiene, City of Detroit Department of Health, Detroit.

Means for Accomplishment—Glenn S. Everts, M. D., Philadelphia.

Methods of Appraisal—L. D. Bristol, M. D., Health Director, American Telephone and Telegraph Company, New York.